

Appl. No. 10/697,451
Amdt. Dated May 30, 2007
Reply to Office Action of March 7, 2007

Attorney Docket No. 83394.0018
Customer No.: 26021

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 7, 2007. Claims 1-14 remain in this application. Claims 1, 6, 13 and 14 are the independent Claims. Claims 1, 3, 6, 9, 13 and 14 have been amended. Claim 15 has been canceled without prejudice. It is believed that no new matter is involved in the amendments or arguments presented herein. Reconsideration and entrance of the amendment in the application are respectfully requested.

Claim Objection

Claim 9 was objected to because of an informality. In response, applicant has replaced the objected-to word with “first.” It is believed that the substitution addresses the concern of above objection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the above objection are respectfully requested.

Non-Art Based Rejections

Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101, for being directed towards non-statutory subject matter; Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness.

With respect to Claim 14, Applicant has amended that claim to recite statutory subject matter. Claims 1, 6, 13 and 14 have been amended to overcome the indefiniteness rejections. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the above § 101 and § 112 rejections are respectfully requested.

Art-Based Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 13-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,021,402 (Tikriti '402); Claims 3, 6, 7 and 9-11 were rejected under 35

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U.S.C. § 103(a) over Takriti '402 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,873,251 (Iino); Claims 8 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Takriti '402 in view of Iino and U.S. Patent No. 5,974,403 (Takriti '403). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and submits that the claims herein are patentable in light of the clarifying amendments above and the arguments below.

The Takriti '402 Reference

Takriti '402 is directed to scenario trees providing probabilities for load forecasts (*see Takriti '402; FIG. 9A, 9B and 11*).

The Iino Reference

Iino is directed to a trouble scenario database 49 that provides input to in-trouble energy margin calculate means 48. The trouble database 49 stores scenarios for simulating machine problems of the plant (*see Iino; FIG. 10, FIG. 12, Col. 14, lines 26-28, lines 39-41 and Col. 17, lines 30-34*).

The Takriti '403 Reference

Takriti '403 is directed to a computer for forecasting spot-market prices of electric power at different delivery points (*see Takriti '403; Abstract*).

The Claims are Patentable Over the Cited References

The present application is generally directed to a method, computer equipment and computer program for planning electric power generation and trade.

Claim 1

As defined by amended independent Claim 1, in a planning system that makes plans of electric power generation and electric power trade, a computer implemented method for an electric power generating plan and an electrical power trading plan includes the steps of determining a stochastic distribution of uncertain factors included in an expected balance generated from the electric power generating plan and the electric power trading plan. The stochastic distribution of uncertain factors is presented in a time-series form. The uncertain factors are prediction errors caused by annulment of the electric power trading plan.

The applied references do not disclose or suggest the features of the present invention as defined by amended independent Claim 1. In particular, the applied references do not disclose or suggest, “wherein said uncertain factors are prediction errors caused by annulment of said electric power trading plan,” as required by amended independent Claim 1.

Iino discloses a trouble scenario database 49 that provides input to in-trouble energy margin calculate means 48 to simulate breakdowns in the electricity generating machines (*see Iino; FIG. 10, Col. 14, lines 26-28*). For example, operators can set plant simulator 1B₄ to a trouble mode 74 of boiler #1 or to other machine trouble modes of the plant (*see FIG. 12B*). In particular, trouble database 49 “stores scenarios to be performed in case of troubles like those of representative past machine troubles,” (*see Col. 14, lines 39-41*). In this manner, worst case scenarios due to machine trouble can be considered (*see Col. 17, lines 30-34*). Therefore, Iino discloses trouble scenarios merely for mechanical problems in plant operation.

In contrast, the present invention requires an uncertain factor to include prediction errors caused by an annulment of an electric power trading plan. An

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electric power trading plan is clearly not disclosed by Iino's machine trouble scenarios.

Thus, Iino does not disclose or suggest this feature of the present invention as required by amended independent Claim 1. Takriti '402 and '403 do not remedy the deficiencies of Iino.

Since the applied references fail to disclose, teach or suggest the above features recited in amended independent Claim 1, those references cannot be said to anticipate nor render obvious the invention which is the subject matter of that claim.

Accordingly, amended independent Claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent Claims 13 and 14 are allowable for at least the same reasons as discussed above with reference to amended independent Claim 1 and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Claim 6

As defined by amended independent Claim 6, in a planning system that makes plans of electric power generation and electric power trade, a computer implemented method for an electric power generating plan and an electrical power trading plan includes the steps of determining a stochastic distribution of uncertain factors included in an expected balance generated from the electric power generating plan and the electric power trading plan. The stochastic distribution of uncertain factors is presented in a time-series form. The electric power generating plan and the electric power trading plan and the stochastic distribution are presented in a first chart that gives a time axis for an axis and generator power output and contracted electric power for the other axis. The first chart includes an

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interruption term of power supply regarding to maintenance inspection and a term of output restriction. A second chart is presented that gives a time axis for an axis and expected values and variances of the stochastic distribution for another axis.

The applied references do not disclose or suggest the features of the present invention as defined by amended independent Claim 6. In particular, the applied references do not disclose or suggest, “generator power output and contracted electric power for the other axis, the first chart including an interruption term of power supply regarding to maintenance inspection and a term of output restriction, and in a second chart that gives a time axis for an axis and expected values and variances of said stochastic distribution for another axis,” as required by amended independent Claim 6.

Iino discloses a first graph of electricity generation quantity and a second graph of electricity generation quantity (*see Iino; FIG. 7F and 7H*). In contrast, the present invention requires the first chart to have one axis with both generator power output and contracted electric power. As disclosed in Applicant’s FIG. 12-14, generated power output and contracted electric power are provided on the same axis. Also shown and required by the Claims are interruptions due to maintenance and output restrictions on the first chart. Iino does not disclose these features.

Furthermore, Takriti ‘402 discloses a scenario tree provided for each set of load forecasts (*see Takriti ‘402; FIG. 9A, 9B and 11*). The scenario trees provide only probabilities. In contrast, the present invention requires the second chart to show expected values and variances of the stochastic distribution. For example, FIG. 12 discloses variance markers provided above and below expected return 1308. Takriti ‘402 merely discloses probabilities in a scenario tree and clearly does not disclose an expected value with variances.

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Thus, Iino and Takriti '402 do not disclose or suggest these features of the present invention as required by amended independent Claim 6. Takriti '403 does not remedy the deficiencies of Takriti '402 and Iino.

Since the applied references fail to disclose, teach or suggest the above features recited in amended independent Claim 6, those references cannot be said to anticipate nor render obvious the invention which is the subject matter of that claim.

Accordingly, amended independent Claim 6 is believed to be in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested.

The remaining claims depend either directly or indirectly from amended independent Claims 1, 6, 13 and 14 and recite additional features of the invention which are neither disclosed nor fairly suggested by the applied references and are therefore also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (310)-785-4721 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

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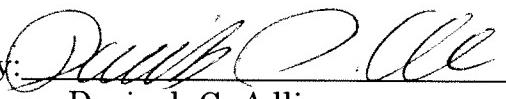
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If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
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